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A New and Pleasant

# HISTORY

OF

unfortunate Hodg

OF THE

# SOVTH:

Very pleasant and delightfull to be read.

Fil of bench Mirth and Wit,  
The merriest book that e'er was writ.

BY H. Croach.



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LONDON, Printed for T. Luke, dwelling in  
Secole lane, 1655.



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The most

LONDON: Printed by J. Smith, at the Sign of the Green Tree, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1702.

## CHAP. i.

### *The unfortunate Hodge of the SOUTH.*

**H**odge being born in the South, in a dull Climate, had bad fortune, little wit, crump shoul-  
derd, crook backt, goggle eyed, splayfooted, crook-  
ed legs, and so deformed, that he was hated of man  
woman, and child, insomuch, that he was constrain-  
ed to travel from the South the place of his abode  
to the North, to seek his fortune; and comming to  
a Gentlemans house, knocked at the dore, and the  
Gentlemen of the house opened the dore himself,  
but when he saw such a deformed creature, he was  
amazed, and thought it had beed the devil, but  
Hodge cryed out, sit, be not afraid, I am a poore  
young man that wants a service; thou lyest quoth  
the gentleman, thou art the devill no( quoth Hodge)  
I am Hodge, let me feel thee quoth the Gentleman;  
whether thou art flesh and blood or no; when hee  
found how it was, the Gentleman entertained him  
into his service only to make him sport.

## CHAP. 2.

*How Hodge was sent of an Errand by his Master,  
and what hapned.*

**N**OW it was so that the servants of the house  
could not endure Hodge being such a deformed  
creature, that the like was never seen in any Coun-  
try before, insomuch that they plotted all that they  
could against him, and complained much of him to  
their Master, although he behaved himself never so  
well amongst them. Vpon a time the Gentleman  
had occasion to send one of an Errand seven milies  
from

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miles from that place, and calling to his household servants, asked them who was at most leisure to go of an Errand for him, they all replied that none but *Hodge*. for he hath nothing else to do, so the Gentleman sent *Hodge* with a letter seven miles from that place, but when *Hodge* came to the house where he was to deliver the letter, the servants of the house were all so afraid, that they ran in and told their Master, that of a certein the devil was at the dore, and for ought they knew, had brought a letter to him from hell; the master in a maze ran to the dore, and asked *Hodge* what he was, and what business he had there, *Hodge* replied I am poore *Hodge*, the devil thou art quoth the Gentleman, I am quoth *Hodge*, and have brought you a letter from my master, so when the Gentleman had received the letter, he bid him remember his love to his master, but lend the devil no more to him, but *Hodge* was no sooner gone, but the servants of the house see the dogs at pore *Hodge*, and beat him sore with staves, and afterwards reported abroad that they had beat the devil.

### CHAP. 3.

*How Hodge returned home to his Master, and what hapned him by the way.*

**N**ow poore *Hodge* being so pitifully beaten by these Gentlemans servants, as also very heavy and weary and sleepey, and lazy withall, laid himself down under a great oak in the middle of a field, no creature neer him but a stray Ox grazing close by him.

him: now it hapned that Hodge fel fast a sleep, and a company of Theeves comming by, having no money to buy them victuals, nor no victuals to eat, searched Hodge's pockets, but finding nothing, resolved to kil the Ox that grazed by him, thinking the Ox to be his in way of revenge, so having killed the ox cut him with their swords in the middle, took halfe the ox with them to rost in the wood, and the other halfe they left behind, they were no sooner gone but the owner of the ox came to seek for his ox, and finding his ox to be killed and halfe of him taken away, and seeing such an ugly Creature ly a sleep, did conclude that Hodge was some devil or some monster that had not only killed his ox, but eaten him halfe up, and so filled his belly so ful, that he was fallen fast a sleep, so when he had awaked him, he examined him what he was, and whose servant hee was, Hodge staring upon him with his great goggle eyes, made the man afraid, told him whose servant he was, the man told him that for his part he tooke him to be some monster, and would apprehend him upon suspition of eating up halfe his ox, Hodge denied it, and told the man when he fel a sleep, hee left the ox alive, but how he came to be so mangled he could not tel, nevertheless the man had him home to his master and accused poore Hodge for eating up halfe his ox, his master said it was impossible, but the household servants which could not endure Hodge, came all out with one accord, and told their Master there was not such a great eater as all

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countray as he was, especially at raw meat, and therefore they did not think it impossible for him to eat up halfe the mans ox, when the Gentleman heard this, he without any more examination of the matter, delivered him up to the man, the man to the Justice, and the Justice to the house or Correction, where poore Hodge was severly punished for no offence.

#### CHAP. 5.

*How Hodge was delivered out of Prison and sent on another Errand, and what hapned.*

**A**fter Hodge had been sufficiently punished upon suspicion of eating halfe the Country mans ox, his master did intend to put him away, in regard the houshold servants could not endere him, but considering within himself that if he should put him away, he would have none left to make him merry, therefore upon that consideration he resolved to keep him and send him on another Errand with a Letter to the same Gentleman he went to before when he was taken upon suspicion of eating halfe the ox and of him to demand forty pounds, giving him charge to bring it home safe, which he promised to do, but when Hodge came near the Gentlemans house, the servants of the house perceiving him, ran in to their master and told him the devil was come again to bring him a Letter from hel, when the Gentleman came forth to Hodge he asked him if his master had none to send but such an illfavoured rogue as he was, howso-

ever



soever he took the Letter of him, read it over, and  
 delivered the forty pound in a bag to him, and  
 Hodge gave him an acquittance and departed, but  
 the household servants had a plot against him, and  
 got him down into the Wine seller, purposely to  
 make him drunck so that he might lose his money  
 by the way as he went home, that if it were possi-  
 ble his master might hang him for the same, so they  
 made poore Hodge so drunck, that he could hardly  
 go our of dores with his bag of money, but he ree-  
 led along til he came to the same tree where he lay  
 when he was accused for eating halfe the ox and  
 there he fel fast a sleep with the bag of money by  
 him. Now there was a Pedler being heavie laden,  
 intended to rest himself under that tree, and finding  
 hodge a sleep with a bag of money lying by him,  
 made bold with the money that was in the bag, and  
 put in his pack, and filled the bag with stones and  
 oken leaves, and when he had done so, he writ some  
 few lines, and put it into Hodges pocket and went  
 his way as fast as he could, now when Hodge awaked  
 and found the bag of money ( as he thought ) ly-  
 ing by him, he was right glad, and said to himself,  
 Lord. what honest people live in this Countrey, for  
 I believe there hath been some that have passed by  
 since I fel asleep, yet my bag is here, and my money  
 safe, but when he came to his Master, and delivered  
 the bag to him, behold there was nothing but  
 stones and Okenleaves, which when his Master  
 saw, he called to his servants, and charged them to

that rogue *Hodge* and hang him, for he had conveyed his money away to some of his companions and filled the bag with stones and oken leaves; when the servants heard their Masters charge, they rejoiced greatly, and said he should not lack a hangman, so one of them took him and hanged him before their Master, no sooner was he turned off the Ladder, but hee that hanged him put his hand in his pocket to feel for money, as it is the usuall course for hangmen so to do, but instead of money he found nothing but a peece of paper, wherein was written these lines following, which were writ by the Pedlar.

A bag of money here I found  
 If any wil it claime.  
 I left it full upon the ground,  
 Then how am I too blame.  
 But I suppose it is not thine  
 That on the ground doth sleep,  
 The Bag is thine, the money is mine,  
 A foole can nothing keep.

When the Gentleman read these lines, he perceived that he was cozened of his money as he laid a sleep, and commanded his servants to cut him down before he was dead; but the servants ran all away, and said they would see him hanged before they would cut him down, so the Gentleman was faine to cut him down himself, and thinking with himself that *Hodge* had punishment enough for his fault, dismissed him.



*How Hodge was made Scullion under the Master Cook and what hapned.*

**N**OW the Gentleman called Hodge unto him, and said, Thou whoreſon villan I wil never hereafter truſt thee to go of any Errand for me, I am now forty pounds the worſe for thee, nevertheless I wil put thee into office, and if thou wilt behave thy ſelf wel, thou ſhalt be ſcullion under the maſter Cook, ſo he called the Cooke, and bid him take Hodge into the Kitchin to him, to help him in his affairs, which he did, but Hodge had better been under the great Turk, for the Cook uſed him ſo cruelly that he would not allow him ſo much as bread to make ſops in the pan, ſo that he was almoſt ſtarved; upon a time Hodge had ſtole ſome pieces of bread, and made ſo many ſops in the pan, that he made himſelf ſo ſick that he ſpued all over the kitchin, the gentleman comming in, asked what beaſt that was, the Cook ſaid it was that rogue Hodge, who had been abroad among his companion: & they had made him drunck, with that the gentleman took the baſting-ladle and inſtead of baſting the meat, he baſted poore Hodge ſo ſorely, that hee had almoſt broke his bones.

Chap: 6.

*How Hodge dreſſed dinner in the Cooks abſence and what hapned.*

**U**PON a time, a certain young Gentlemen, called the maſter cook forth to be merry with them  
and

and left the dinner to be dressed by *Hodge*, who gave very good content to his Master and all the guests, inſomuch, that the gentleman ſaid *Hodge* was capable to Learn, ſlow of ſpeech, and willing to ſuffer, in the mean time the Maſter Cook did drinck ſo much among the young gentlemen that he tooke a ſurſet, came home ſick and dyed, and it was told the gentleman that the Cook was dead, and that *Hodge* had poyſoned him, the Gentleman ſaid he would have him opened, and if there was any poyſon in his body, he would have *Hodge* hanged without Mercy, if not *Hodge* ſhould have the Cookes place to make him amends, a Cherurgion was ſent for, but no poyſon was found in the body of the Cook, but the Cherurgion concluded he dyed of a ſurſet, and ſo *Hodge* was made Maſter Cook.

## Chap. 7.

*How the Cook was buried, and how the ſervants caſt  
Hodge into the grave.*

**W**Itchin a while after the Gentleman buried the Cook, and invited a great number of Gentlemen to the burial, and it was ſo that there was none ſtood near the grave but the honſhold ſervants, and one of the ſervants had a winding ſheete under his Cloak, add when he ſaw *Hodge* he tyed the ſheete about him and caſt him into the grave, and the other Men laid the dead Man upon him unknown to their Maſter, but *Hodge* with much ſtriving up, and ran amongſt the people in his winding ſheet, in ſuch fort, that they thought it had been the dead Man that

that had broke out of the Coffin, and happy was he that coulde get out of the Church first, but *Hodge* cryed out be not afraid, I am poore *Hodge*, I pray loosen me, that I may not be smothered, when the people heard him say so, they unbound him, and his Master beat him for scaring them.

Chap. 8.

*How hodge was cast in the fire by one of the servants.*

**N**OW the indignation of the servants was so great against *Hodge*, because he was made Master Cook, that one of them came in and cast *Hodge* into the midst of the fire, *hodge* cryed out for help, and not his Master come quickly into the Kitchen hee had been burned, but when he had pulled him out by the heels, he that cast him in told his Master that the rogue had been in the wine seller, and had made himself drunk, and so fel into the fire, when the Master heard this, he told *Hodge* if ever hee found him again, he would turn him out of his place.

Chap. 9.

*How one of the maids served Hodge.*

**W**ITHIN a while after, it chanced that one of the Maids of the house fel down a paire of staires with her Coats about her ears, so that her bare buttocks was seen, which when *Hodge* saw, he cast his Cap at it in good wil to hide it, but sheooke the Cap and said, wel *Hodge* in regard thy cap hath honoured my breech, my breech shal honour thy cap, and so squertering into it, (she being loosely given) clapped it upon his head, and so departed, but when

*Hodge*

*Hodge* ran among the servants, they cryed foli, this rogue hath berayed his breeches, the Gentleman hearing a noyse, came running in, and asked what was the matter, *Hodge* went to put of his Cap to his Master and it all ran down his face and about his shoulders, so that they ran all away, crying out, pox take this rogue he wil choake us all, but when *Hodge* had washed himself and made himself sweet, he was sent for by his Master, to whom he related how he came in that pickle, whereupon they all fell a laughing at him, which tormented him more than his former punishment.

#### Chap 10.

*How Hodge travelled to heaven.*

**H***odge* being generally hated both at home and abroad, was weary of his life, and wished himself in heaven, which when one of the men heard, he said unto him, if thou wilt go to *heaven*, *hodge*, I wil conduct thee thither, but thou must endure some punishment for thy sins, marry quoth *hodge* I think I have endured punishment enough already, nevertheless I should be content to endure more so I might go to heaven, why then quoth the man strip thee stark naked, and I wil put a cloth before thy eyes, because you must not see which way you go, then wil I take thee by the hand and lead thee to heaven after thou hast had thy punishment: in the meantime he provided six Cart whips for six men, and they were to stand in a long room three on each side to whip poore *hodge*, which done according,

*hodge* asked the man who they were that whipped him so cruelly, the man told him they were Fryars; Fryars quoth *hodge*, I pray is there any Fryar in heaven, yea quoth the Man, them that do wel, why then quoth *hodge* I wil not go to heaven, and so ran back again as fast as he could run, and was punished as bad comming back as he was before.

Chap. 11.

How *hodge* was turned out of his place and was made Falconer.

**N**OW the Gentleman by the 'perswasions of some of his friends, married with a gallant Dame, but she could not endure *hodge*, but told her husband, that as long as *hodge* was Cooke, she would not eat a bit of his dressing, the Gentleman to please his wife, turned *hodge* out of his place and made him Falconer, so *hodge* looked to his Master hawks, having six hawks to feed; but on a time when *hodge* was absent, one of the servants carryed the hawks out of the house and bid them and set six Kites in their places; now when *Hodge* came again he fed the Kites as he use to do the hawks, and thought nothing, until such time as his master had an intent to ride a hawking, and then *hodge* brought a Kite upon his fist like any man: which when his master saw, he said O thou rogue, what hast thou brought me here? a hawk quoth *hodge*, a hawk quoth the Gentleman, it is a Kite, and fell a beating of *hodge*, good for quoth *hodge*, it is such a hawk as you gave me to keep unless some witch hath transformed them from hawks into Kites, but after his Master had beaten him sufficiently;

ciently;

ciently, the man that took the hawks away brought them again privately, and then the tempest was over.

Chap. 12.

How the Gentleman and his wife were invited to a Feast, and how she went from her husband, because he would not turn away hodge.

**T**HE Gentleman and his wife being invited to a Feast, and having a very fair orchard and but one Cherry Tree, commanded all the Servants that they should not meddle with that Tree; but as soon as they were gone, the servants pulled all the fruit off the Tree, and when the master of the house and his wife came home and found all the Cherries gone, they examined the servants, the servants said that rogue hodge had played the rogue and had done all the mischief: the master beat hodge, but that was not all, because he did not turn him away, his wife would not live any longer with him but went from him and lived in a wood saying that she had better live there upon roots and herbs, and haws, than to live in a house where such a Rogue as hodge was, whereupon when the master heard of it, he called hodge and said unto him, O thou rogue, how long have I kept thee to torment me in this manner, thy mistress is gone to live in a Wood, and all long of thee, and before I will lose her I wil turn thee away, when hodge had heard him say so, he said unto him, master if that be all, I will warrant you I wil fetch her again, wil you the master use thy skil and go thy way, hodge goes to a Farmers wife, whom his mistress did not know, and desired her to go along with him upon such an account



as you heard before, the Woman being better temperd than the household servants, went along with him, and coming through the wood his mistress called to him and said hodge, what Woman is that with thee? my new mistress quoth hodge, your new mistress quoth she, am not I your mistress, I quoth hodge, but you wil not live with my master, cox bobby quoth she, if any other be there but I, I wil pul out their eyes, and so away she runs home to her husband, and so hodge by his wit brought his mistress home again, and she by her wit turned him out of doors, as you shall heare in the next Chapter.

Chap. 23.

How the Mistress made a rogue of hodge, and transported him to Lubberland.

**N**OW the servants told their Mistress that it was hedges roguery to fetch her home again upon that score, which when she heard, she vowed to be revenged of him to the ful, and to that purpose, she rose next morning very early, and called hodge to go along with her, and being neere the Sea, she gave a ship master ten shillings to transport him to Lubberland, where as it is reported, he hath eighteenpence a day for sleeping, and the next news we heare from Lubberland you shal hear more of him.

FINIS.